to all Central Government Employees. Since the existing Railway Pension Scheme is based on the existing Central Government Pension Scheme, any New Scheme for Railway employees would also be based on the New Pension Scheme decided upon by the Central Government for all Central Government employees.

(b) The Railway employees are governed by the Pension Scheme formulated by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DOP&PW), the nodal department of the Government of India on pension policy matters under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions. The details of the New Pension Scheme, base on defined contribution and how it is different from the previous plan for Railway Employees, are not known to the Ministry of Railways as a final decision in this respect is yet to be taken by the Central Government.

Works under Central Road Fund

1447. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways Safety Fund created in 2001 is supposed to finance manning of unmanned level crossings and conversion of level crossing into road over/under bridges;

(b) whether funds received from Central Road Fund from 1999 to 2002 were not fully utilized for the specified purposes and whether a huge balance of Rs. 393.00 crores was kept unused at the end of 2001-2002; and

(c) whether a large number of such works under the CRF are still pending to be executed in Kanataka, and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Railway Safety Fund is used to fund road safety works including manning of unmanned level crossings and conversion of level crossings into Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges.

(b) The closing balance in the Fund as on 31.3.02 was Rs. 392.03 crore.

(c) There are 43 works of construction of Road Over Bridges/ Road Under Bridges sanctioned on cost sharing basis in the State of Karnatkaka. These are at various stages of planning and execution. There are 61 numbers of level crossings with more than one lac Train Vehicle Units (a unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains to the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing within 24 hours) which are not yet sponsored by State Government for construction of Road Over/Under Bridges.

Regarding manning of unmanned level crossings, information is maintained Railway-wise not State-wise. However, certain unmanned level crossing have been identified for manning-based on the volume and nature of traffic and the visibility conditions on Southern Railway, South Central Railway and South Western Railway which cover Karnataka State. The work on these is at various stages of execution.

Replacement of level crossing in U.P.

1448. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of level crossings in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 2003 which qualify for replacement with road over bridge/road under bridge on 50 percent cost sharing basis with the State Government/concerned local bodies;

(b) whether any specific level crossings for replacement have been identified; if so, the locations thereof;

(c) whether any plan for the purpose has been drawn for the next three years; and

(d) if so, the details of funds required to be made available by the State Government/concerned local bodies over the said period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) 180.